



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

KAREL VAN DEN BERG

Serial No.: 09/642,828

Filed: August 22, 2000

For: A FEEDING AND/OR DRINKING COLUMN ON BEHALF OF ANIMALS

Docket No.: 8553/189

Group Art Unit: 3644

Examiner: Bret C. Hayes

#13

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OCT 07 2005
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

To the Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is an Information Disclosure Statement which lists prior art that may be considered of interest in the examination of subject Application.

This Information Disclosure Statement should not be construed as a representation that an exhaustive search of the prior art has been conducted or that other material information as defined under 37 CFR §1.56(a) may not exist.

It is submitted, however, that this statement complies with the requirements of 37 CFR §1.56, §1.97 and §1.98, and the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, Section 609. If, for any reason, the Examiner to whom this Application is assigned for examination considers otherwise, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned be contacted so that any deficiencies can be corrected.

8553/189

10/05/2005 EFLORES 00000136 09642828 180.00 DP
03 FC:1806

The following documents are submitted herewith:

1. U.S. Patent No. 3,336,907, to Thompson, which issued August 22, 1967, and is for a limited access livestock feeder apparatus. A feeder is provided for animals, particularly hogs, which includes a storage housing and dispensing means for discharging a predetermined equal amount of forage about the periphery of the housing into separate feeding stalls. A slowly rotating arm member progressively moves the forage through discharge openings into the individual feeding stalls. The stalls are defined by wall members 44 to which are welded horizontally extending bars 63. A motor 80 turns an arm member 66 slowly. Arm 66 is curved at its outboard end to move forage inboard so that forage drops through discharge openings 58, there being one such discharge opening for each feeding trough 62. The apparatus can be operated manually or automatically.

2. U.S. Patent No. 5,680,829, of Payne, which issued October 28, 1997, is for a livestock feeder. The disclosure points out that a need exists for a livestock feeder that is resilient when engaged by livestock, easy to assemble and disassemble, easy to transport when either assembled or disassembled and constructed to store and preserve a supply of feed. A circular trough 14 is provided which receives feed through feed dispensing openings 70. A conical feed guide 72 is fabricated of a polymetric material. This is also true of a lid 82 and a lower support member 84 that is fabricated of a polyethylene pipe. The lower support member 84 is secured to the underside of bottom end 54 of trough 14 by any suitable means such as heat welding, adhesive or the like. It is stated that the use of polymetric material to construct livestock feeder 10 enhances the durability and portability thereof.

3. European Patent Application No. 0 432 702 A2, of Faccia, published June 19, 1991, is for an apparatus for screening animal fodder products unloaded from mixing trucks. It comprises a container 2 mounted on a chassis 3 having wheels 4 and a supporting structure 7.

Inside of container 2 is a vertical auger for mixing animal fodder therein. Permanent magnets 12, 13, 14 and 15 are applied to a conveyor belt 6. These magnets attract and retain any pieces of iron, wire or similar ferromagnetic material which may be contained in the mixed product to be distributed to animals' eating troughs.

4. European Patent Application No. 0 677 245 A1, to Vogl, was published October 18, 1995. Although the disclosure is in the German language, the figure appears self-explanatory. It appears that two containers 8 and 9 have material therein moved to a further container or hopper 6 from which the material may be selectively provided to receivers therefor 1, 2, 3 and 4. Reference numeral 5 is identified as eine Identifizierungseinrichtung.

5. European Patent Application No. EP 0 806 136 A1, of Icking, was published November 12, 1997. It appears to be a feeder for hogs or the like which is controlled by the hog eating from the trough. As seen, in particular, in Figures 4, 5, 6 and 7, there appear to be six separate stalls arranged in a circle defined by partitions.

6. Offenlegungsschrift 3009963, of Ryszard, Insytut Metalurgil Zeleza, was published January 15, 1981. Although the disclosure is in the German language, the drawings disclose Magnetfeldquelle which are adjacent endless members in Figures 1 and 2 and in a band 4 in Figure 3.

7. Offenlegungsschrift DE 3029161 A1, Kieper, Joachim, was published February 25, 1982. Although the disclosure is in the German language, attention is invited to reference numeral 13 which is for a "Magnetspule."

8. International Patent Application No. PCT/SE87/00293, was assigned International Publication No. WO88/00007 January 14, 1988. The inventors are Lundin et al and the title of the Application is "Feeding station for loose going animals." Alfa Laval Agri International AB is listed as Applicant for all designated states except the U.S. The feeding station has a central

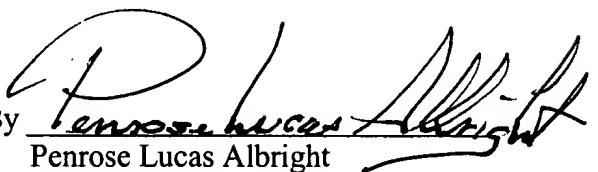
control unit which controls the feeding to cows that have identifying discs. When the cow arrives at the feeding station, and is determined to be entitled to fodder, it is provided a predetermined amount of fodder. The disclosure is directed to a feeding station that can simultaneously feed at least two animals. As seen in Figure 2 a distributing pipe 9 is shown which is moved by a motor 10. However, motor 10 is stopped by a signal from a rotational sensor 11 which is a magnet 12 that is fastened to a rotation axle 13.

With the original Application, an International Search Report was filed which lists all of the above-identified patent documents and provided for each a citation of the documents an indication of the relevant passages and relevant claim numbers. Each of the above-identified documents were also listed as being in category "A" which is a document defined in the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance. Nevertheless, if the Patent Examiner desires that translations be provided for any document or documents which are not in the English language, upon request they will be provided.

A fee of \$180.00 is covered by a check submitted with this Information Disclosure Statement. However, if incorrect, the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks is authorized to debit or credit our Account No. 13-2000 as appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
BASED ON FORM PTO-1449

ATTY. DOCKET NO. 8553/189

SERIAL NO. 09/642,828

APPLICANT: KAREL VAN DEN BERG

LIST OF PRIOR ART CITED BY APPLICANT

(Use several sheets if necessary)

FILING DATE: 08/22/00

GROUP: 3644

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT | DATE | NAME | CLASS/ | FILING DATE (IF APPROPRIATE) |
|---------------------|----|-----------|----------|----------|--------|---------------------------------|
| | AA | 3,336,907 | 08/22/67 | Thompson | 119/56 | |
| | AB | 5,680,829 | 10/28/97 | Payne | 119/53 | |
| | AC | | | | | |
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| | | DOCUMENT | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS/ | TRANSLATION | |
|--|----|----------------|----------|----------------------------|--------|-------------|----|
| | | | | | | YES | NO |
| | AL | 0432702A2 | 06/19/91 | Europe—Faccia | | | |
| | AM | 0677245A1 | 10/18/95 | Europe—Vogl | | | X |
| | AN | EP0806136A1 | 11/12/97 | Europe—Icking | | | X |
| | AO | 3009963 | 01/15/81 | Germany—Ryszard | | | X |
| | AP | DE3029161A1 | 02/25/82 | Germany—Kieper | | | X |
| | | PCT/SE87/00293 | 01/14/88 | International—Lundin et al | | | |